



Worcestershire Compact Steering Group

Terms of Reference

Rationale

The Worcestershire Compact Steering Group (WCSG) is a task group of the Worcestershire Partnership the Countywide Local Strategic Partnership.

Through the WCSG the Worcestershire Partnership recognises the unique position of the voluntary and community sector to support Local Strategic Partnerships in Worcestershire, particularly through their specialist skills, contribution to capacity building, social capital, community cohesion and approachability. The involvement of the VCS in partnership working supports the effective provision of services to the wider community and hard to reach individuals and groups. The Worcestershire Compact will be used as the basis of partnership working between the VCS and the public sector.

COMPACT is:

A joint agreement between Worcestershire Partnership and the Voluntary and Community Sector to build trust and improve working relationships for the benefits of all parties.

Vision

A County with safe, cohesive, healthy and inclusive communities, a strong and diverse economy and a valued and cherished environment

Aim

The aim of the steering group is to promote and support the effective engagement of the VCS in the work of the District and Countywide Local Strategic Partnerships and the implementation of the Local Area Agreement in Worcestershire, using the Worcestershire Compact as a mechanism to ensure a consistent approach.

Purpose

The steering group will fulfil this aim by:

- ❖ Raise awareness of the COMPACT within the partnership and beyond.
- ❖ Support capacity building where appropriate.

- ❖ Overseeing development, implementation and monitoring of the Worcestershire Compact and the associated codes of practice on:
 - Funding and Procurement
 - Volunteering
 - Consultation, representation and engagement
 - Community groups
 - Dispute resolution

- ❖ Providing a formal link between the public and voluntary sectors on issues relating to the Worcestershire Compact and LSP issues

- ❖ Sharing and co-ordinating information to ensure that the VCS is actively engaged and involved in Local Strategic Partnerships at county and district-wide level, and the implementation of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement.

- ❖ Seeking resources for the implementation of the above topics and issues.

Membership & Accountability

Current Membership List:

4 VCS Representatives	3 WIC, 1 outside of WIC
2 Representatives	Worcestershire County Council
2 Representatives	District Councils
1 Representative	Worcestershire Partnership
1 Representative	Worcestershire Primary Care Trust
1 Representative	West Mercia Police
1 Representative	West Mercia Fire and Rescue

WIC to manage election process for VCS reps.

- ❖ WCSG is accountable to the Worcestershire Partnership, and shall provide regular updates/reports as appropriate to the Worcestershire Partnership Board and Management Group. WCSG members are accountable to their own organisations/sectors to ensure effective two-way flow of information.

Resources

- ❖ Worcestershire County Council – admin support and arrangements for meetings, venue hire etc.
- ❖ Worcestershire Partnership – funding of events and activities plus specified advice
- ❖ VCS – through WIC where appropriate.

Timing of Meetings

- ❖ Quarterly or as necessary
- ❖ Minimum of 5 in attendance at least one of which must be a VCS representative.